Pesticides poisoning

1711. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA;

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government's atten, tion has been drawn to the report, which appeared in "The Week" of August 31—September 6, 1986 stating that according to WHO about 7,50,000 people suffer annually from pesticide poisoning and about 14000 of them prove fatal, two thirds of whom die in the developing countries and also that almost every thing that is consumed by people in India is contaminated with pesticides beyond! the tolerance limits stipulated by WHO;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have used any guidelines in this regard to States; and

(d) what other steps are being taken in the interest of public health?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) 'The Week' of August 31—September 6, 1986 does not carry any 'report of WHO on pestiiide poisoning.

(b) In view of (a) the question does not arise.

(c) and (d) The maximum toler-ence limits of commonly used pesticides in different commodities of food articles have been laid down under the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. The State Governments have been asked to en-sure that the pesticide 'residue in food does not exceed the prescribed limits.

Instructions have also been issued with respeet to safe usage of pesticides to avoid pesticide poisoning due to wrong usage. These instructions are conveyed through labels, leaf lets accompanying every package of pesticides. This message is also carried 'through extension agencies.

Guidelines to the co-operative societies

1712. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently issued any guidelines to the cooperative societies to protect and promote the interests of the weaker sections of society; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) The major thrust of cooperative development is towards helping the weaker sections including Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and promoting their interest. Suggestions make from time to time in this regard relate to:—

(i) increasing the membership of weaker sections in the existing cooperatives;

(ii) progressive increase of loans to them.

(iii) representation of such classes in the management of cooperatives; and

(iv) organisation of cooperative for specific activities like poultry, fishery, dairy and other animal husbandry activities and labour cooperatives.

Furthermore, the strategy for the Seventh Plan *inter-alia,* envisages realignment of the policies and procedures of cooperatives to expand flow of credit and ensure supply of inputs to weaker sections.